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RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0628  
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TREASURY FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY KIMMITT, STATE FOR EB AND  
NEA/ARPI, NSC FOR BOUZIS, JOINT STAFF FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL  
JONES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/12/2016

TAGS: [OVIP](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [SA](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE APPROVAL FOR VISIT OF DEPUTY  
TREASURY SECRETARY KIMMITT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 114028

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Gfoeller  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) The U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia welcomes and grants provisional country clearance for the visit of Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt and his delegation to Saudi Arabia on July 23. Due to recent severe budget cuts, the Mission must direct charge all visit support costs. Country clearance is expressly conditional on advance receipt or assurances that complete fiscal data will be forwarded covering all support expenses for all visitors and delegation members. Please see Para 5 for details.

¶2. (SBU) Mission Control Officer will be Jeddah Management Officer Hector Morales. The delegation will be met upon arrival and transportation will be provided. Contact numbers are: Consulate MSG Post 1 - (966-2) 667-0080, Ext. 4377; Consulate Motorpool - (966-2) 667-0080, Ext. 4356; Control Officer Home (966-2) 665-2173, Office Ext. 4379, Cell Phone (966-50)636-5945, E-Mail Address: moraleshe@state.gov.

¶3. (U) The traveling party will be issued cell phones, and the numbers will be provided to the Consulate switchboard. Travelers are required to have an active functioning cell phone at all times.

#### Military Aircraft Clearances

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¶4. (SBU) Processing of military aircraft clearances in Saudi Arabia requires as much advance notice as possible. Please ask the relevant action officers to forward the required clearance information to DAO Riyadh soonest.

#### Standard Advice to Travelers

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¶5. (U) Visit Typical Expenses

a. VIP: We calculate the average cost per day/per person to

be approximately USD 197.00 for VIP visitors to any post in Saudi Arabia. Actual costs will be charged to the fiscal data provided.

Typical costs include, but are not limited to, American and Locally Employed Staff's overtime, holiday pay and premium pay as applicable, field travel by Embassy personnel, transportation costs, vehicle rental, telephone installation and service, equipment rental, printing expenses, supplies, and any other costs that can be directly attributed to the visit.

b. Operational Support: Typical costs include overtime for Locally Employed Staff, overtime and mileage for motorpool if after hours transportation required, cell phone and any other costs that can be directly attributed to the visit.

#### 16. (U) TDY of 30 Days or Longer

a. Certification that travelers remaining at post for 30 days or longer have completed the appropriate, mandatory overseas personal security training, prior to arrival at post (State 66580, March 25, 2004). Waivers to this requirement may only be granted by the Chief of Mission. Requests should be sent to Ambassador James Oberwetter or Charge Michael Gfoeller.

b. For TDYers remaining at post over 30 days, there will be a charge for ICASS support. If your sponsoring agency has not signed up for ICASS services at post, please be prepared to sign a MOU for ICASS support services upon arrival. The sponsoring agency should provide post with written authorization, generated by the traveler's headquarters, that confirms the agency will pay ICASS charges for the TDYer, the

agency ICASS billing code and authorize the visitor to sign the ICASS invoice generated by the TDY module. When travel is urgent, visitor(s) should carry above-mentioned documentation with them. Mission Saudi Arabia will not provide service to a visitor(s) in excess of 30 days without this documentation prior to day 31 of the TDY. For each sponsoring agency that sends a series of TDYers for less than 30 days, the Mission will add total TDY days, and if the total exceeds 30 days, they will count as a single TDY.

c. The Department of State Medical Unit recommends vaccination against meningitis for all visitors to Saudi Arabia. All employees, including WAEs and Civil Service employees who are in TDY status for more than 60 days (cumulatively) in a calendar year, are required to have up-to-date medical clearances from the Office of Medical Services at Class 1 or Class 2 levels in order to receive full State Department medical benefits (3 FAM 1931.3, c,e).

#### 17. (U) Security: As a result of the continuing terrorist threat in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Embassy and Consulates General in Saudi Arabia became one-year unaccompanied posts effective August 12, 2004.

All visitors to the U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia are required to contact the Regional Security Office within 48 hours of their arrival to schedule a post-specific security briefing, mandatory for all PCS and TDY personnel, regardless of the duration of your stay.

Travel is performed only in Embassy vehicles. Use of taxis, private cars, hotel shuttles, and public transportation for all travel within the city is not authorized.

Travelers to Saudi Arabia are advised that their hotel rooms may be monitored during their stay in the Kingdom. Travelers should report any unusual occurrences to the Embassy or Consulate General RSO.

On December 6, 2004, there was an armed attack on the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, resulting in casualties among the non-American staff and damage to consulate facilities. Due to such targeted attacks against American facilities and

citizens, resulting in deaths, injuries and kidnappings, and the continuing serious threat to their safety while in Saudi Arabia, the Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens to defer travel to Saudi Arabia.

TDYers are reminded of the potential for further terrorist actions against U.S. citizens abroad, including in the Persian Gulf region. U.S.G. employees who travel to Saudi Arabia are required to follow all security precautions as prescribed by the Regional Security Officer including the use of armored vehicles. From time to time, the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Saudi Arabia may restrict the travel of official Americans or suspend public services for security reasons.

Although counter-terrorism efforts have succeeded in diminishing terrorist capabilities in Saudi Arabia, terrorist groups continue to target housing compounds, hotels, methods of transportation, and commercial establishments where Westerners can be found. Saudi Government facilities are also targets as demonstrated by the December 29, 2004 attempted bombing of the Ministry of Interior. In addition to car bombs and armed assaults involving multiple gunmen against such facilities, terrorists have also used ambush attacks to kidnap and/or assassinate individual Westerners. These incidents argue strongly that U.S. citizens in Saudi Arabia should maintain a low profile, keep travel to a minimum, vary travel routes and times, and treat any mail from unfamiliar sources with suspicion. American citizens are also cautioned to remain alert and aware of their surroundings while moving about the city.

18. (U) The Embassy approves the use of computers, laptops, and digital camera(s) at post in accordance with 12 FAM 600 established regulations. Stand-alone use of laptop(s) will be allowed, as are digital camera(s), but must stay outside of the CAA areas. Prior notification of the use of camera(s) must be approved by the RSO. It should be noted that Saudi law, especially as it is interpreted in the capital of Riyadh, rigidly controls photography. We strongly urge visitors avoid taking photographs in any public place without the express and prior involvement of the RSO.

19. (U) Visas: Visitors are also reminded that valid visas for Saudi Arabia are required at all times. Travelers are advised that submitting passport(s) to the Saudi authorities that contain Israeli visa(s) may result in difficulties securing Saudi visa or gaining entry to the Kingdom. Official travelers to Saudi Arabia should request a two-year, multiple-entry visa from the nearest Saudi Embassy or Consulate.

110. (U) Passports: Visitors are reminded to keep a copy of their passport with them at all times while in Saudi Arabia as it may be needed for identification. The original should be kept in a safe place.

111. (U) Prohibited Items: Strict Islamic law is the foundation of the Kingdom's customs and practices. The norms for public behavior are extremely conservative. Saudi Arabia outlaws the importation, sale or use of alcohol in the Kingdom, and visitors must not attempt to bring any alcohol, pork products or printed materials that may be construed as pornographic or proselytizing into the Kingdom. Penalties include confiscation, fines and may extend to denial of entry.

112. (U) Dress: While visiting the Kingdom, women and men should dress conservatively. Guidance issued by the Saudi Embassy in Washington states that non-Muslim women are not required to wear an abayya, but should dress conservatively (loose fitting skirts/dresses that fall well below the knee with long sleeves and a high neckline) when in public. This is also the position of the U.S. Embassy.

However, while Embassy personnel are not required to wear the abayya and/or hijab (scarf) on official business, many

Western women choose to wear the abayya and hiyaab while conducting their personal affairs in order to avoid unwanted attention and/or harassment by the Mutawwa'in (religious police). Upon request, the Embassy will loan female TDY personnel abayyas for the duration of their TDY assignments. It is the policy of the Embassy to support a woman in her decision to wear or not wear the abayya and/or hiyaab.

¶13. (U) Drugs: Saudi Arabia strictly prohibits the importation of controlled substances, including narcotics, methamphetamines, depressants and hallucinogens). The penalty for violation of this law is death. Prescription drugs in small quantities, clearly labeled, should cause no difficulties. Problems arise when they are in large quantities, unlabeled, or lack documentation (such as a copy of the prescription), or when they are deemed illicit by Saudi authorities. Many drugs sold in nearby countries without a prescription are considered illegal here. Individuals are arrested for possession of these drugs.  
OBERWETTER